

Madison County

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

PO Box 606
Wampsville, NY 13163
(315) 366-2376

Scott Ingmire
Director



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CONTACT: Scott Ingmire, Madison County Planning Director (315) 366-2376

Public Transportation Changes Hoped to Serve More People

The Madison County Planning Department announced recently changes to the Madison Transit System schedule and routes. The changes are an attempt to accommodate the needs of more of Madison County's underserved populations.

According to Planning Director Scott Ingmire, the new route incorporates additional stops at area senior living communities, grocery stores and health care agencies. He said a major challenge was to continue serving existing commuters who rely on the Madison Transit System for their employment.

Work on revamping the routes and schedules began two years ago under the supervision of the Madison County Board of Supervisors Planning Committee and with the help of a steering committee comprised of stakeholders such as Birnie Bus, operators of the Madison Transit System for Madison County; the Madison County Office for the Aging, Community Action Partnership, Heritage Farms and members of Madison County's Employment and Training Office, Health Department and Department of Mental Health.

"We met with Birnie Bus and one of their drivers to try to accommodate a number of current riders into our proposed changes," Ingmire said. "I think we came up with a few great solutions that resulted in only minor changes to a few routes. For the Oneida route, we added a stop a few times during the day in Munnsville as the bus comes up from Hamilton. Also, we added some

earlier times to the Bus No. 3 route to accommodate shift times at Marquardt and Dielectric, two of our major employers that have used MTS extensively in the past.”

Stops at the Tom Tom Street Apartments and Bolivar Landing in Chittenango and Stoneleigh Housing in Canastota are among those being added to the route. The Oneida route will run around the city and to Wampsville throughout the day, connecting with Route 2, which continues to Canastota, Chittenango and Cazenovia before returning to complete its loop in Wampsville several times a day.

Route 3 will serve riders from Earlville to Cazenovia, where they can connect with Route 2 buses to continue travel to other parts of the county.

Ingmire said copies of the schedules and transit guides are being placed on the buses, as well as the Madison County website at ridemts.org.

According to Ingmire, additional adjustments may be made to the new routes and schedules after they have been in effect for a while. Along with State and Federal dollars, local County tax dollars are used to fund the Madison Transit System.

“It is our hope that citizens of the County will utilize these new MTS routes as a means to get to work, go shopping, get to medical appointments, as a way to get to recreational destinations, and whatever other needs they may have,” Ingmire said.

For more information, call Birnie Bus at (315) 824-1260 or the Madison County Planning Department at (315) 366-2376.